

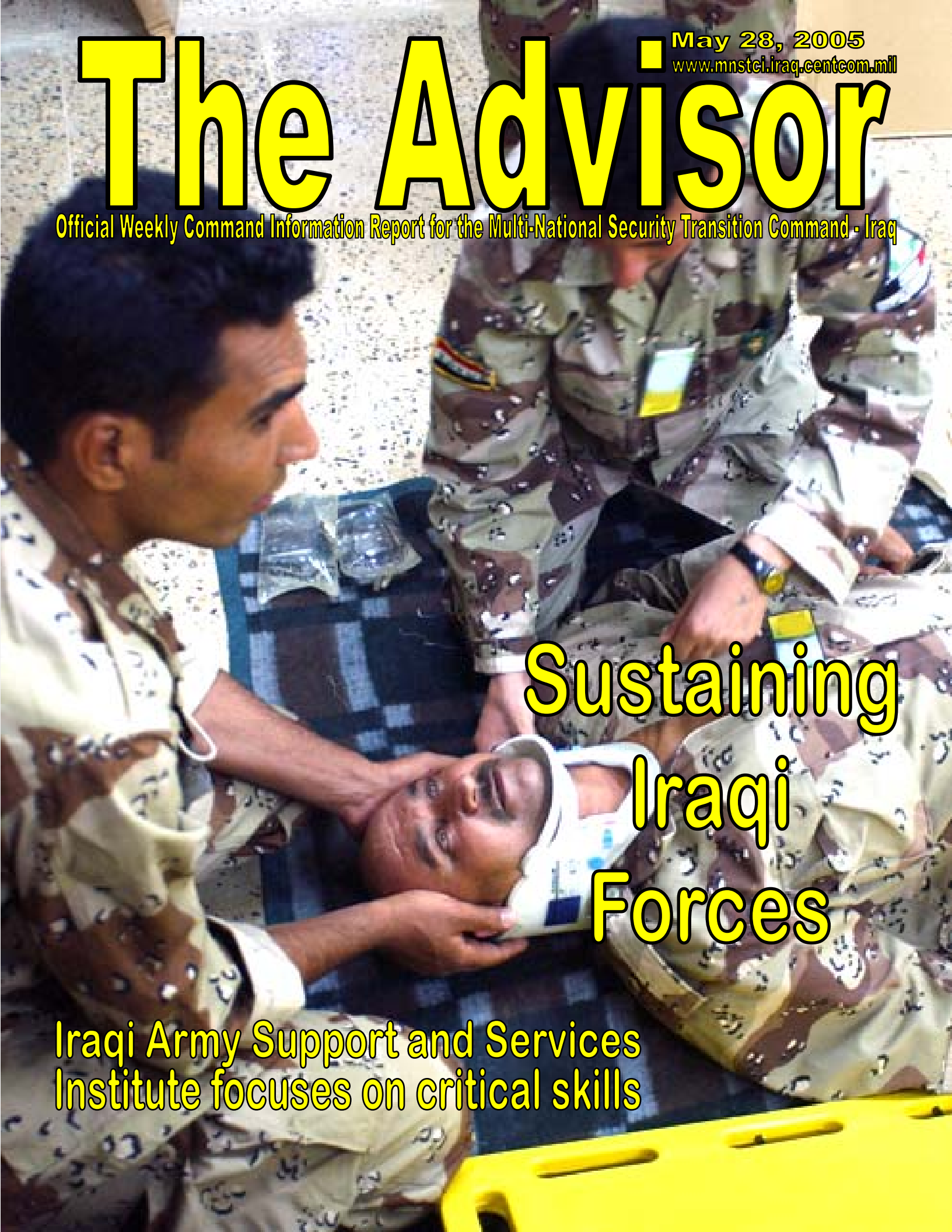
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The Advisor

Official Weekly Command Information Report for the Multi-National Security Transition Command - Iraq

Sustaining Iraqi Forces

Iraqi Army Support and Services
Institute focuses on critical skills



May 28, 2005

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Cover: Iraqi students in the medical training course at the Iraqi Army Support and Services Institute practice putting a neck brace on a fellow student.

Photo by U.S. Army Sgt. Lorie Jewell

"Operation Al Barkh" to secure freedom for Iraqis

By U.S. Army Capt. Larry George
MNSTC-I Public Affairs

BAGHDAD, Iraq – The Iraqi Interior and Defense Ministers addressed the media May 26 at the Baghdad Convention Center to officially announce "Operation Al Barkh (Lightning)" as a mission to secure long-term freedom for the Iraqi people.

The Iraqi-led joint operation will include over 40,000 Iraqi Security Forces with an additional force available in case of emergency.

The goal of the operation is to "turn the government's role from defensive to offensive," said Bayan Jaber, Minister of Interior.

Iraqi police and Army soldiers will be operating 24 hours a day, seven days a week manning 675 fixed checkpoints and more mobile ones, said Jaber. Iraqi commandos and special forces units will be standing by to act on any intelligence they receive and will conduct raids on that information, he added.

The Minister of Defense, Saadoun al-Dulaimi, stated that Baghdad will be split in two halves between Rusafa and al-Karkh. Rusafa will have 7 districts and al-Karkh will have 15 districts.

"We will establish, with God's help, an impenetrable blockade surrounding Baghdad like a bracelet surrounds a wrist," said al-Dulaimi.

Jaber stated that the Iraqi Ministers have been meeting for 15 days to plan this operation under the supervision of Iraqi Prime Minister Ibrahim al-Jaafari.

Al-Dulaimi stated the operation will

be followed by similar anti-terrorism missions across the country in the future. "Baghdad is first and after two weeks, the whole of Iraq," he said.

One of the Iraqi commanders in Baghdad last week said it was important to note this was the first time all the different MOI and MOD units were meeting to talk about an operation. "This will go a long way toward making all of our groups more effective and unified," he said.

"This is just the beginning of a new era of cooperation between the Iraqi Police, Public Order Brigades and the Iraqi Army," said Col. Joseph DiSalvo, commander, 2nd Brigade, 3rd U.S. Infantry Division, last week in planning meetings.

In the first 48 hours of "Operation Squeeze Play" last weekend, a total of 428 suspects were detained in the massive joint-combat shaping operation to improve the security situation in Baghdad. The operation involved Iraqi soldiers, police, special police commandos and Coalition Soldiers.

With the Iraqi government organizing and coordinating all efforts, and the ISF in the lead, "Operation Al Barkh" now shifts to establishing long-term security and freedom in Baghdad, and for the Iraqi people in the future.



Iraqi soldiers detain suspected insurgents during Operation Squeeze Play in Baghdad May 22.

Photo by U.S. Army Spc. Ronald Shaw Jr.

"The spread of evil is the symptom of a vacuum. Whenever evils wins, it is only by default: by the moral failure of those who evade the fact that there can be no compromise on basic principles." — Ayn Rand (1905 - 1982)

Logistics, transportation and medics are focus of new Iraqi school

By U.S. Army Sgt. Lorie Jewell
MNSTC-I Public Affairs

TAJI, Iraq – In Iraqi Cpl. Monder Khlaf Mohammed's mind, knowledge and skill development are the keys to rebuilding his country.

That's why he asked his transportation unit in the Iraqi Army's 4th Division to send him to Taji for the Iraqi Army Support and Services Institute. Formed earlier this year to train supervisors and officers, Monder is a member of the second class to make its way through the Australian-run school.



Paperwork is a large part of the supply supervisor course at the Iraqi Army Support and Services Institute. Students must pass a literacy test to attend the school.
Photo by U.S. Army Sgt. Lorie Jewell

Iraqi Army before the war and returned to serve after it was re-established. The type of training being offered now and schools like IASSI were virtually non-existent before, they said.

"In the old Army, we couldn't find professors to teach us these skills," said Kasem. "But we can get that here. When I become a supervisor, I can then teach the other soldiers in my unit."

The supervisor transport course and two other courses – supervisor supply and maintenance – are aimed at Iraqi Army noncommissioned officers. There are also course offered for officers including the logistics officer's first course for lieutenants and captains, and the logistics officer's second course for captains and majors.

The first course is designed for those who will fill key posts in battalion headquarters and service companies, while the



Properly bandaging an injured arm is one of the tasks students learn in the medical training course at the Iraqi Army Support and Services Institute in Taji.
Photo by U.S. Army Sgt. Lorie Jewell

second course is for those who will be on brigade or division-level logistics staff, said Australian Lt. Col. Warren Jolly, the senior adviser to the school.

New to the curriculum this cycle are two medical courses, one focusing on training unit soldiers to fill roles similar to combat medics, and the other for doctors who are entering military service.

The school currently has 143 students attending the three-week courses. The medical courses are five weeks. Boosting the enrollment is one of the challenges leaders face, Jolly said. Ideally, enrollment should be at 250 students, he said.



In the transport management course, students practice directing drivers in backing-up large vehicles.
Photo by U.S. Army Sgt. Lorie Jewell

Still, Jolly and others believe the training is going

well. The first cycle, which produced 151 graduates, was taught primarily by Australian instructors. A push to put more Iraqi teachers at the front of classes has paid off, Jolly said. There are now about 30 Australian or Coalition instructors, and 15 Iraqi trainers.

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School

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"We worked very hard with the Iraqi Army to get them familiar with the school and the responsibility of providing instructors for it," Jolly said. "They've responded extremely well, readily volunteering to do more instruction. And those that are doing it are proving to be very good. As well they should, it's their school."



Splinting a leg is another skill students learn in the medical training course at the Iraqi Army Support and Services Institute. Photo by U.S. Army Sgt. Lorie Jewell

An instructor development course, offered between the first and second cycles, helped prepare Iraqi instructors for their classroom jobs. Another reason for the quality of Iraqi instructors is a result of the high standards Iraqi Col. Ward, commander of the school, has set for his staff, Jolly said.

Students are selected by units to attend the school. They must pass a literacy test and have experience in the field in which they will be supervising, Jolly said. Transport supervisors should know how to drive a variety of vehicles, while maintenance supervisors need to have mechanic skills.

Warrant Officer 2 Paul Anderson, a team leader for the supply supervisor course, is encouraged by the efforts he sees students putting into the classes and the momentum he believes is building in improving the curriculum. One of the big challenges he sees is changing the attitudes of the "old-school guys." They are soldiers from the old Iraqi Army who want to do things the way they used to do them and have argued against change.

"We sat them down and explained that what is being taught here was signed off by the Ministry of Defense, and like it or not, this is how it is. They have to adapt to change, or they have to leave," Anderson said. "The good thing is, they are in the minority. Most of the students are very positive."



Students in the logistics officer course discuss a logistics plan with their instructor, Australian Lt. Stuart Baldwinson. Photo by U.S. Army Sgt. Lorie Jewell

Iraqi police arrest bomb-making terrorists at hospital

By Task Force Baghdad Public Affairs

BAGHDAD, Iraq – Three terrorists, who tried to plant a bomb on a busy roadway and were fired upon by Task Force Baghdad Soldiers, were later arrested by Iraqi police May 22 after they checked into a hospital for their wounds.

The events started at 2 p.m. when Task Force Baghdad Soldiers at an observation post saw three men digging in a road near the Al Suckar Bridge in south Baghdad. When the men placed an improvised explosive device in the hole, the Soldiers opened fire and the terrorists fled the scene.

Local authorities were put on the lookout for the men and shortly after 10 p.m., Iraqi police located the terrorists at Mahmutiyah Hospital. Two of the men had been injured by gunfire and were seeking treatment. Upon questioning, the uninjured man admitted he was the driver and that they were emplacing an IED near the bridge when they were caught in the act by Task Force Baghdad Soldiers.

"We owe the successful outcome of this thwarted terrorist act to the quick thinking and keen observation of Iraqi police and the cooperation of hospital personnel," said U.S. Army Lt. Col. Clifford Kent, Task Force Baghdad spokesman.

Iraqi Army brigade trains to handle emergencies

By U.S. Army 2nd Lt. Leslie Waddle

1st Battalion, 9th Field Artillery Regiment Public Affairs

BAGHDAD, Iraq – Terrorists detonate a car bomb at a local girl's school, killing 20 students and wounding many more. The 2nd Iraqi Army Brigade, 6th Division (Tiger Brigade), secures the area at the school, orchestrates a casualty evacuation and treatment plan and finds the terrorists responsible for the incident.

This was one of many training scenarios the U.S. Army Military Training Teams provided the Tiger Brigade during a command post exercise earlier this month at Baghdad International Airport.

The training exercise was conducted by the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd U.S. Infantry Division and was structured to test the Tiger Brigade staff on their ability to coordinate with higher and lower level commands during an emergency, said U.S. Army Lt. Col. Paul Humphreys, executive officer, 2nd BCT. The MITT team is composed of about 30 selected officers and noncommissioned officers as well as about a dozen interpreters.

The intent of the exercise was to test the 2nd IAB staff on running 24-hour operations, said Humphreys. Prior to this, they had three tactical operation center exercises to put their systems in place for tracking the battle, communicating information, and maintaining status of equipment, personnel and casualties.

This exercise focused on training the Iraqi Army to function as a TOC. This included handling crisis situations, planning and executing operations and disseminating information within the headquarters as well as to subordinate units. Throughout the exercise, they had situations ranging from improvised explosive device attacks, anti-Iraqi forces gunfire and kidnappings, and convoy ambushes.

"I am really impressed with their reaction time during a crisis. When we first started, they needed guidance on what to do," said Chief Warrant Officer Lorena Peck, 2nd BCT transportation officer and one of those in charge of running the CPX. "Now they take a situation, an IED attack for example, and develop the situation very quickly."

While the staff worked on TOC exercises, the soldiers were conducting rigorous training. They conducted round-robin training which includes a series of classes and hands-on instruction. At the end of the day, they conducted an after-action review, followed by professional development for NCOs.



An Iraqi soldier practices squad and platoon tactics during a command post exercise.
Photo by U.S. Army

"The training has gone well; they still have areas to work on, but have shown a great deal of improvement, especially with participation and a willingness to learn," said U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Fredrick Harris, MITT, platoon trainer. "They take training seriously. The classes are similar to basic training classes, but we implement Iraqi traditions." Harris believes that the training will provide the Iraqi soldiers with the confidence they need to execute missions on their own.

Iraqi Brig. Gen. Aldainie Jawad, commander, Tiger Brigade, has been in the Iraqi Army for many years. He graduated in 1966 from the military college, where he later taught. Jawad feels that the Tiger Brigade will be ready to run operations in the city in "a very few days."

"I am very thankful to America for helping to put the Iraqi Army together," he said. "You are very good friends of Iraqis."

Baghdad raids net 22 terrorists, weapons, \$6 million

By Task Force Baghdad Public Affairs

BAGHDAD, Iraq – Task Force Baghdad units took down 15 terror suspects during six early-morning raids conducted throughout Baghdad May 22. One of the raids, in central Baghdad, netted two suspected terrorists and \$6 million in U.S. currency.

Later in the day, an Iraqi citizen told soldiers from the 6th Iraqi Army Division about people suspected of planning and carrying out a car bomb attack near a military base in central Baghdad. An Iraqi patrol went to the site, cordoned off the area and detained two suspects. Both suspects were taken into custody for questioning. Another Iraqi citizen's tip helped in finding 14 mortar rounds in Baghdad.

In other operations May 22, a dismounted Iraqi Army patrol from the 1st Battalion, 1st Brigade, 6th Army Division found another weapons cache in east Baghdad. The Iraqi soldiers found three mortar rounds, one rocket, three grenades and three AK-47 assault rifles. The cache also contained one chemical mask, 135 anti-aircraft rounds, machine gun ammunition, a police radio and speaker, and six fuses.

Iraqi soldiers from the 3rd Muthana Battalion, 3rd Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division uncovered a third weapons cache containing a number of rockets buried in Abu Ghraib. Explosives experts checked for booby traps, and finding none, removed an undetermined number of rockets from the site.

Iraqi soldiers train as defenders of their own destiny

By U.S. Army Pfc. Dan Balda

4th Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs

BAGHDAD, Iraq – The training could be found on any U.S. Army base anywhere in the world. Soldiers listened to their instructors with rapt attention; happy to receive any feedback, positive or negative, which helped them learn faster. They knew the faster they learned, the faster they could shed the watchful eye of their teacher and be able to defend the country they love; the country to which they have pledged their lives.

But this was not an American military base with American Soldiers—it was a hot, dusty airfield near Baghdad and the ones paying close attention to the instructor were Iraqi men with their lives and their country's future at stake.

Some of these Iraqi soldiers have already seen combat with U.S. Marines in Fallujah in 2004, while others have only fired their weapons at the range. Regardless, everything they learn today may save their lives tomorrow.

Soldiers could not ask questions of their instructor directly, but had to ask an interpreter and have the question relayed to Sgt. Leigh Castle, a communications expert and scout sniper, Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 6th Squadron, 8th U.S. Cavalry Regiment.

"These guys know the things we are teaching them are going to save their lives," Castle said.

The Iraqi soldiers need to know when they are doing something wrong so they can correct it, but too much negativity can have an adverse affect on the training, he added.

"It's hot, they are spending their day out here just like us in the same conditions and sometimes you have to give them a little boost to bring them together," Castle said.



Members of the Iraqi Army practice squad-based movements at Muthana Airfield .
Photo by U.S. Army Pfc. Dan Balda

Two of the issues the American instructors find themselves dealing with are the language barrier and the habits some of the Iraqi soldiers

have brought with them from prior service in the former regime's military, said U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Jason Stoko, sniper section leader, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 4th Battalion, 64th Armor Regiment.

Regardless of how the soldiers were taught before, they still maintain the desire and intelligence to learn and apply their new skills.

Castle has found one way to hurdle the language gap. "I can't wait to get out of the classroom to the range because it's a lot more hands-on and you can show them things; a lot of that language barrier goes away. I can grab a Soldier's rifle and show them how I want something done. Then they copy me. Soldiering is universal," Castle said.

U.S. Army 1st Lt. Naim Lee, a platoon leader with Troop C, 6th Squadron, 8th U.S. Cavalry Regiment, was surprised by the Iraqi soldiers.

"I wasn't expecting them to be so willing to learn. They are very eager to learn and easy to teach. It makes you eager to learn if you know you are going to be out there getting shot at. Also, most of them want to make their country better," he said.

Even though Lee's platoon is executing a different mission here in Iraq than the one they trained for at Fort Stewart, Georgia, they are excited to be training the men who are going to be taking over the duties from them.

"We didn't know we were going to be training these guys, but my Soldiers are doing a great job. Most of us get excited to come out here every day," Lee said.

U.S. Army Lt. Col. Michael Harris, speaking to a fellow Soldier about one of the favorite things he had seen during training, said, "All these Army guys have things in common, no matter what Army you're in. You suck up dirt, you get dirty, you get thirsty, but it's all worth it at the end of the day."



A U.S. Soldier supervises training of Iraqi Army soldiers conducting battle drills at Muthana Airfield.

Photo by U.S. Army Pfc. Dan Balda

Iraqi Army occupies Uday Hussein's former palace

By U.S. Army Spc. Ben Brody

2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division Public Affairs

BAGHDAD, Iraq – One of Uday Hussein's former palaces has a new tenant – Iraqi troops from the 1st Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 6th Army Division.

The unit uses the riverfront palace complex to train and stage operations in North Baghdad, but they are not alone. Helping train and mentor the young unit is a military transition team from the 1st Battalion, 9th U.S. Field Artillery Regiment.

"This is a place where the Iraqi Army is really succeeding independently of Coalition forces," said U.S. Army Maj. Terry Cook, executive officer, 1-9 FA. "They are building pro-Iraqi Army support in the area because people see the coalition is not involved."

However, Cook and the rest of the MiTT still provide support behind the scenes at the palace complex. In addition to providing joint fires, such as close air support, aerial surveillance and counter-mortar radar, the Battleking team trains Iraqi medics and troops on essential soldier skills.

"We try to nudge the IAB in the right direction; toward how we run battalions," said U.S. Army 1st Sgt. William Zito, Battery B, 1-9 FA. "We have to guide them during the transition from the old regime to the new Iraqi government so they don't slip back into old habits."

Iraqi Maj. Ahmed Gebar, executive officer, 1st IAB, said his battalion is making steady progress in his area of operations.



Iraqi soldiers practice drill and ceremony in front of Uday Hussein's former palace.

Photo by U.S. Army Spc. Ben Brody

"Everything is getting better in our sector," Gebar said. "If things keep going this way, it will be very good." He described the MiTT as being very helpful and responsive to his requests for assistance.

"We have a good relationship with the MiTT – everything we ask for, they always try to help," Gebar said. "I have very good, brave men. They need more training and equipment, but they are good soldiers."

Whether they need training or not, the Iraqi soldiers at the palace have impressed the MiTT. "The Iraqis here really accomplish the mission," said U.S. Army Sgt. Steven Carpenter, communications sergeant, 1-9 FA. "Their reaction time is outstanding. When there's an attack in sector, they jump in their trucks and roll out with no delay."

Iraqi led operation unearths weapons cache on farm

By U.S. Army Spc. Matthew Wester

Task Force Baghdad Public Affairs

TAJI, Iraq – Digging in the Iraqi heat is hard work, but it can provide great rewards. Soldiers of the 5th Iraqi Army Battalion, advised by U.S. Soldiers of 4th Battalion, 1st Field Artillery Regiment and 70th Engineer Battalion, 3rd Brigade, 1st Armored Division, found that out on May 17.



A member of the 5th Iraqi Army Battalion in Taji inspects a flare gun and AK-47 rifle found during the cordon and search of a rural area known for containing caches in the past.

Photo by U.S. Army Capt. William Earl

They conducted a cordon and search operation on a farm in a rural area near Taji, known for containing weapons caches in the past.

The soldiers uncovered a variety of weapons and equipment hidden in the ground around the farm including AK-47

rifles, 800 rounds of 20-millimeter ammunition, a large box of circuit boards, flares, an artillery plotting table and a mortar sight and tripod, according to U.S. Army Capt. William W. Earl, assistant operations officer, 4-1 FA.

The senior U.S. officer on the mission, Army Maj. Russell K. Sears, executive officer, 70th Engineer Battalion, described the Iraqi soldiers as prepared and professional. "We developed the target; Iraqi officers planned and executed," he said.

The thoroughness, motivation and productivity of the Iraqi Army troops impressed their American advisors, who pitched in to help dig in the sweltering afternoon heat. "This just shows the level of competence these guys have," Earl said. "They are a true product of what we are trying to do out here."

The mission was part of an ongoing transition to more combined Iraqi Army and U.S. Army missions, with Americans in a supporting role and Iraqis stepping up to fight the insurgents in their area. "The biggest success was this was an Iraqi operation, and they ran it well," Sears said.

Iraqi, U.S. Soldiers bring medical aid to Salman Pak

By U.S. Army 1st Lt. Adam Harris

3rd Squadron, 7th Cavalry Regiment Information Operations

SALMAN PAK, Iraq – Iraqi and U.S. Army medical officers examined more than 500 residents who came to a Salman Pak clinic May 12. The medical officers provided medical advice, treatment and prescription medication as part of a medical civil action project.

“The main purpose of a MEDCAP is to provide simple medicines and treatment for simple wounds and conditions, while assessing the overall health of the people,” said U.S. Army Maj. Rick Smudin, 443rd Civil Affairs Battalion, team leader. “It’s a good opportunity to build trust and support for our Soldiers and the Iraqi forces in the neighborhood.”

The clinic was run by Soldiers from 3rd Battalion, Iraqi Intervention Forces and Troop C, 3rd Squadron, 7th U.S. Cavalry at a forward observation building about a mile outside the main city of Salman Pak. Several of the rooms were cleaned and furnished in order to accommodate the mission and although space was limited, all residents who came to the clinic were able to receive medical care.

“The medical operation in Salman Pak provided the people with a chance to receive medical help,” said U.S. Army Capt. Brett Bair, Troop C, commander. “Some of the people were witnesses or victims of insurgent attacks.”

Although the clinic provided medical assistance for residents and better intelligence for Coalition forces, the clinic also brought several hundred of the residents of Salman Pak and Coalition forces together for the first time.

Before the 3-7 Cavalry Regiment was tasked with providing security for Salman Pak, insurgents used the town to conduct anti-Iraq government operations and terrorized residents.

“We were scared to even walk outside our home before the Americans came here,” said Salman Pak resident Ali Jafta. With continued operations in the area by Iraqi and U.S. forces, many of the residents feel more secure than they did during prior months.

“Overall, the clinic was a huge success,” Smudin said. “It helped build upon the significant progress that has been made and the increasing confidence of the residents toward Coalition forces. This event, without a doubt, proved that Coalition forces are committed to helping the people.”



A boy living down the road from the compound looks scared before he was given a shot inside the clinic room. Throughout the day, hundreds of children received medical attention by Iraqi and U.S. doctors.
Photo by U.S. Army 1st Lt. Adam Harris

\$3.5 million project pumps fresh water to Zafaraniya

By U.S. Army Maj. Russ Goemaere

2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division Public Affairs

BAGHDAD, Iraq – Readily-available fresh water is something most Americans take for granted. In Iraq, many areas suffered from severe neglect under the former regime and fresh water became a luxury.

The residents of Zafaraniya, a suburb of Baghdad, are benefiting from the completion of a water system that is bringing fresh, clean, potable water to the edge of their residential lots.



An Iraqi laborer lays a water pipe while working on the Zafaraniya water project, designed to bring potable water to the homes of more than 200,000 residents of this Baghdad suburb.

U.S. Army photo

“Water is pumped from the Rasheed Water Treatment Plant to the gates of each residential lot,” said an Iraqi engineer who preferred not to be identified.

The water system was built in the 1970s and 1980s and had seen little maintenance and repair, he said. He added that it was nec-

essary to rebuild the entire system to improve the lives of the residents. “All of the residents I have spoken to have told me how nice it is to have clean water available once again,” the engineer said.

The Ministry of Health has completed surveys of the water the new system is delivering and the water has been verified as fit to drink, he said.

Under the contract, water is pumped only to the gates of each home’s courtyard, but he said it is very easy and inexpensive for the residents to complete the work and bring the water into their homes.

More than 6,500 homes and about 200,000 people in Zafaraniya will benefit from the water project. About 300 Iraqi workers and more than \$3.5 million were invested in the project, said U.S. Army Maj. Alexander Fullerton, an engineer for 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division.

“Many projects have been completed recently. The water project in Zafaraniya is one part of the much larger civil reconstruction plan which focuses on building and/or repairing the sewers, water, electricity, and trash removal systems in east Baghdad,” he said.

Iraqi Army battalion ready to take reins in Sadr City

By U.S. Army Spc. Ben Brody

2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division Public Affairs

CAMP HOPE, Iraq – History is being made at Camp Hope, currently home of the U.S. Army's 3rd Battalion, 15th Infantry, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, as 3rd Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division prepares to take charge of half of Sadr City in June.

Only a creaky iron gate separates the two units' bases, and the U.S. forces take every opportunity to mentor the growing Iraqi unit and conduct joint operations.

"These troops will be taking over half of our sector, a large area in Sadr City," said U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Michael Allen, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3-15 Inf., mortarman.



Coalition and Iraqi Army Soldiers patrol the streets of Sadr City.
Photo by U.S. Army Spc. Ben Brody

"We're helping to fine-tune their skills at this point – all of them are experienced patrolling the sector."

Allen, of Bryan, Texas, and

other leaders from HHC's mortar platoon conduct daily classes at the Iraqi Army battalion compound, focusing on essential soldier skills, such as map reading and battle drills.

"The Iraqi Army battalion guys are like sponges when we teach our classes," Allen said. "We've been working closely with them for a month and a half, and in that time, they've improved really quickly."

Sadr City, the northeast section of Baghdad, is the most densely-populated area in Iraq, with about two million residents in an area about 10 square miles.

The sector, formerly called Saddam City, has erupted in violence several times since the liberation of Iraq in March 2003, making it critical that the Iraqi battalion is up to the task, Allen said.

Inside the 3-2 IAB's tactical operations center, U.S. Army Pfc. Travis Carney, HHC, 3-15 Inf., mortarman, acts as a battle captain, tracking every Iraqi patrol in Sadr City and keeping tabs on major incidents.

"I'm here to help the Iraqi battalion operate the TOC the right way and to give them someone they can ask questions of anytime," Carney said. "There's a lot of violence in the city, at least two explosions or ambushes every day, but I haven't lost a single soldier since I started. It takes hard work and patience, but they've come a long way."

Tip helps Iraqi forces disable bomb at pre-school

By 2nd Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs

BAGHDAD, Iraq – Working on information provided by local Iraqi citizens, the Iraqi 2nd Public Order Brigade in East Baghdad discovered and dismantled three roadside bombs before they could be used against civilians and multinational forces.

The Iraqi brigade is maintaining the dismantled bombs as evidence for future legal proceedings. One bomb, a 122mm Howitzer shell, was located next to the Alkawther Pre-school. Four detainees are being held in connection with these improvised explosive devices.

"Many children would have been killed if this device would have been used," said U.S. Army Capt. Rick Ackerman, adviser to the 2nd POB. Ackerman, who is from Jamestown, ND, said he is dismayed by the actions of the terrorists. The Iraqi Public Order Brigade is being very aggressive, working with the Iraqi police, Iraqi Army and Coalition forces to find and destroy the terrorists who are operating in the East Baghdad neighborhood of Rusafe, he said.

"The ISF and Coalition are working hard to reduce the number of terrorists attacks in East Baghdad; here's another example of how aggressive ISF action based on tips from the people will help defeat the terrorists," said U.S. Army Maj. Russ Goemaere, spokesperson for the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd U.S. Infantry Division.



The improvised explosive device discovered at a local pre-school is rendered inoperable. It will be used in the legal proceeding against the four persons that have been detained.
U.S. Army photo

'5-25' campaign increases IED awareness

By Multi-National Corps - Iraq Public Affairs

BAGHDAD, Iraq - Improvised explosive devices are the number one killers of America's sons and daughters serving in Iraq and the Joint IED Defeat Task Force at Camp Victory kicked off an information campaign May 25 in an effort to increase IED awareness and save lives.

The "5-and-25" campaign, as it is called, is designed to increase IED awareness and reduce the effectiveness of the mountain of makeshift bombs being produced by insurgents. Officials say the deceptive devices account for more than half of the Coalition deaths that have occurred since the start of the Iraq war in March 2003.

Efforts to date have reduced the IED casualty rate by more than 45 percent during the period of April 2004 through February 2005 – but that is not seen as enough.

"IEDs are our number one killers here," said Eric Egland, who works at the Iraq headquarters of Joint IED Defeat Task Force at Camp Victory. The task force is responsible for developing innovative ways to rid the country of IEDs.

The deadly devices are considered a highly effective means of killing people because they can quickly be set up anywhere and be set to blow at any time. They have been disguised as virtually everything from tree trunks and dead animals to bicycles and pregnant women. Royal Australian Air Force Group Capt. David Stockdale, deputy chair of the IED Working Group at Multi-National Corps - Iraq, said there is no limit to what insurgents will use for IEDs.

Stockdale, who serves as the equivalent of a colonel in the American Air Force, has been actively working the issue of IEDs and effects since arriving in Iraq a few months ago.

"The IED is one of the most dangerous threats to Coalition forces," Stockdale said. "To mitigate their effects, we wanted to put together an information campaign that would make the IED reaction drill a normal part of daily activities for the coalition forces."

The working group, deputy-chaired by Stockdale, represents a cross-section of coalition forces formed as a result of this issue.

The group's solution for getting vital information to the forces required three objectives: First, ensure information gets to those troops who need it most; second, develop an effective counter-IED organization that can take the fight to the enemy; third, produce pinpointed products which can be approved and delivered in a timely fashion.

"IEDs can be any time, anywhere, any shape; the trends change," Stockdale said. "The aim is to get the message to the field. It's dangerous out there."

Task force members agreed they needed some common thread to tie all the messages together – like a logo.

"The [designers] suggested we needed to have [a logo] that everybody recognizes," said U.S. Army Lt. Col. Theodore Martin, field team leader, Joint IED Defeat Task Force - Iraq. "5-and-25" became that logo. "The most important thing Coalition forces can accomplish is situational awareness when they're outside the wire; it is the most basic [tactic] that you have to master."

"This seemed appropriate because 5-and-25 means awareness," said U.S. Army Master Sgt. William Johnson, one of three designers. "5-and-25 means checking the area around you for a threat. Every time you stop outside a secure area, you always should check. Not checking could get you killed."

More specifically, 5-and-25 requires that troops look for anything out of the ordinary within a five-meter radius of their vehicles, according to counter-IED policies. If halted long enough, forces should then exit their vehicles and conduct a 25-meter sweep around their position. Halting for as little as four minutes can prove costly.

"Evidence shows that [many] Soldiers, who are at a short halt [for as little as] four to five minutes, are getting hit by IEDs near their vehicles," Martin said.

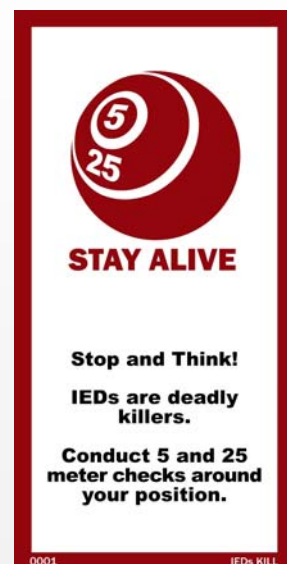
Besides the recognizable 5-and-25 logo getting printed in military publications, the campaign will also produce messages to other outlets that could potentially reach as far away as the Department of Defense and Afghanistan.

"This time it's [newspaper ads], next time it will be commercials on TV and radio," Martin said. "After that, we're looking at expanding it. The sky is the limit."

Included in the laundry list of ideas are bumper stickers, flash screens on Web sites, stress balls and even Frisbees, according to Martin.

Whatever the means, Stockdale said the message must stay focused with one purpose - to save lives.

"There's no predicting exactly where, when or how you're going to meet an IED when you're driving around," Stockdale said. "Practicing those basic methods and regularly using them significantly enhances your chances of survival."



Iraqi Army brigade search mission targets insurgents

By U.S. Army Capt. Peter Molineaux
Multi-National Corps - Iraq

SOUTHEAST, Iraq – Soldiers from the Iraqi Army's 3rd Brigade, also known as the "Al Karar" Brigade, conducted "Operation Peninsula" on May 20. "Operation Peninsula" was a brigade-level cordon and search mission targeting areas in the northwest region of Iraq's Wasit Province.

The mission was intended to disrupt operations, detain known insurgents and capture suspected weapons caches of anti-Iraq forces.

In the early afternoon, the Al Karar Brigade's three battalions simultaneously seized target objectives known to be harboring insurgents in an area next to the Tigris River and northwest of the city of As Suwayrah. This area is surrounded on three sides – to the east, west and south – by the Tigris River. The peninsula, located approximately 30 kilometers southeast of Baghdad, is primarily agricultural with terrain alternating between open crop fields and palm tree groves.

The Iraqi battalions conducted a methodical search of houses and farms in the area and uncovered caches containing weapons and ammunition after detaining numerous priority targets. A large quantity of documents and compact disks were confiscated for analysis by the Iraqi and U.S. military intelligence teams. The Iraqi battalions also discovered a number of bags containing the distinctive black uniforms of the former Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein's "Fedayeen" forces. In total, "Operation Peninsula" resulted in the capture of 187 suspected insurgents.

Supporting the mission were forces of the Multi-National Division Central - South, including the 1st Polish Brigade Combat Team, Coalition MI personnel and a U.S. Marine ANGLICO team. The Polish forces had the additional responsibility for calling in a medical evacuation helicopter, if needed. The U.S. Marines were on-hand during the mission in case the Coalition adviser support teams needed to employ helicopters and combat air support.



The officers of the 2nd Battalion of the Al Karar Brigade receiving a final briefing from the Iraqi battalion commander while at the assembly area.

Photo by U.S. Army Sgt. Maj. Christopher Miele

"As a brigade commander, I am of course very pleased when missions such as these are executed so well and are so successful," said Iraqi Col. Rahman Jerry Chilab, commander, 3rd



Iraqi soldiers with the 2nd Battalion of the Al Karar Brigade preparing to depart the assembly area for their objectives during "Operation Peninsula."

Photo by U.S. Army Sgt. Maj. Christopher Miele

Brigade, through an interpreter. "I'm even more pleased when we are able to help the people in areas like these by capturing insurgents who have continued to commit serious crimes against them. In light of this, I believe the actions of the Al Karar Brigade during the mission were truly heroic," Rahman added.

"The first component to the success of this mission was the extensive preparation that took place after we planned this operation, on both the Iraqi and U.S. sides," said U.S. Army Lt. Col. Daniel Christian, commanding officer, ASTs assigned to the brigade. "The second was our ability to utilize MND-CS and coalition resources, such as the Marines and the Polish forces of the 1st brigade combat team. We were especially grateful for the airborne observation and medical evacuation support that the Polish forces were able to provide during the operation."

The Al Karar Brigade's operations order called for the perimeter of the peninsula to be divided into three areas of operation. The brigade's 1st Battalion focused its efforts on target objectives to the northwest, while the 2nd and 3rd Battalions concentrated on the areas to the southwest and the southeast respectively. The operation also employed the Al Karar Brigade's engineering company to establish a blocking position to the north of the peninsula in order to capture suspected insurgents fleeing inland.

The Tigris River provided a natural obstacle to the south that the Iraqi forces used to cut off any possible escape of insurgents. Polish forces set up vehicles on the opposite

See 'Operation Peninsula'

Page 12



An Iraqi soldier assists a suspected insurgent to his feet before transporting him out of the area of operations.

Photo by U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Dennis P. Ewing

Operation Peninsula

From Page 11

side in blocking positions to intercept them in case they attempted to cross the river.

"I believe the success of this mission was also due to the solid and actionable intelligence that we were able to draw from individuals we captured during Operation Cobweb a week ago," Rahman said. "Additionally, we saw an almost seamless interaction between the brigade and battalion command and control on our side, and between the brigade and the (Coalition) ASTs, who assisted us on the ground during this mission."

During "Operation Cobweb," another cordon and search mission on the same peninsula the previous week, the Al Karar Brigade captured 29 suspected and known insurgents along with several weapons, ammunition, explosives, documents and uniforms.

The subsequent questioning of these detainees yielded an extensive list of additional names and locations of insurgents in the peninsula area. This list of insurgents, containing the names of individuals still operating in the area, was cited by Rahman as the primary reason for the planning and execution of Operation Peninsula.

"I was impressed by the brigade's ability to synchronize the operations of its battalions and attack the prescribed targets at the scheduled time," Christian said. "The ability to execute this mission in a synchronized way was a direct reflection of the quality of the Iraqi leadership, and the guidance they received on the ground from the (Coalition) ASTs."

During "Operation Peninsula", suspected insurgents were interviewed by Iraqi and Coalition MI personnel and their

names cross-checked with those on the list that was developed after Operation Cobweb. After the conclusion of the mission, the intelligence units were able to determine that at least 63 of the 187 detained were known insurgents.

"I believe this mission was so successful because the officers, noncommissioned officers and soldiers were able to take the experience and lessons learned from previous cordon and search missions and apply them here," said Iraqi Maj. Baraa Mohammad, 2nd Battalion commander, through an interpreter.

"This was also our second battalion-level cordon and search mission of the peninsula in a week. With the intelligence we were provided, we were able to develop specialized training for cordon and search operations in this area and ensure that every officer and NCO in the battalion was fully prepared to execute his responsibilities," said Mohammad.

"Now that this mission is complete, we will focus on implementing our brigade reconnaissance operations in full, and conducting additional training for the soldiers to improve and refine their abilities," Rahman said. "Based on the intelligence we have already received, we can also continue to plan operations to be undertaken in the Wasit Province at some future time."

The Al Karar Brigade is currently headquartered southeast of Baghdad in the Wasit Province.

The Al Karar Brigade's AST is comprised primarily of Soldiers from the U.S. Army Reserve's 98th Division Institutional Training based out of Rochester, NY.

Many of the ASTs have been with the Iraqi brigade for more than seven months. They have trained the Iraqi soldiers throughout the eight-week Basic Combat Training course, which finished the first week of February. The 98th Division was mobilized to support the Multi-National Security Transition Command – Iraq in 2004.



Soldiers of the 2nd Battalion of the Al Karar Brigade conducting final checks of their vehicles and equipment before departing the assembly area.

Photo by U.S. Army Sgt. Maj. Christopher Miele

Iraqi Army aid fosters goodwill in Sadr City

By 3rd Infantry Division Public Affairs

SADR CITY, Iraq – Iraqi Army and Task Force Baghdad units held one of their largest humanitarian missions in a neighborhood here May 19.

Soldiers from 3rd Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division and Task Force Baghdad's Company A, 3rd Battalion, 15th Infantry, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd U.S. Infantry Division distributed 2,000 frozen chickens, 25 soccer balls, hundreds of Beanie Babies and whatever food and candy Soldiers had in their trucks.



An Iraqi Army Soldier passes out frozen chickens during a humanitarian assistance mission in Sadr City, Iraq, May 19.
Photo by U.S. Army Spc. Ben Brody

Mao, of Modesto, Calif., explained that Iraqi soldiers did almost everything themselves that day in preparation for their takeover of half of Sadr City in June.

"They need to be totally proficient at this kind of mission, because they'll be doing it all by themselves in a month," Mao said.

Iraqi and U.S. troops quickly secured an open area near a school and set up concertina wire to keep the crowd a safe distance from the truck packed with chickens. Iraqi soldiers divided the crowd into two lines, one for men and one for women, then directed them to the truck to receive two chickens each.

Compared to previous humanitarian drops in other neighborhoods, residents were patient and orderly. Residents of all ages flocked to the site and nearly every-



A 3rd Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division Soldier passes out frozen chickens during a humanitarian assistance mission in Sadr City, Iraq, May 19.
Photo by U.S. Army Spc. Ben Brody

body that showed up received something.

"It's going really well – I think we've made some friends today," said U.S. Army 1st Sgt. Michael Howle, Company A, 3-15 Inf. "We

have even gotten some of the local kids to clean up the empty chicken boxes and put them back on the truck. We'll give them each a soccer ball when they're done."

Howle and other U.S. Soldiers watched the Iraqi troops carefully, taking mental notes to share with Iraqi Army battalion leadership later. "The IAB has come a long way in the past few months," Howle said. "I'm looking forward to them taking control of the sector."

Prior to driving off, Soldiers handed out the soccer balls which children gleefully accepted. They started a pickup soccer game before the trucks even left.



1st Lt. Ed McMichael, fire support officer, Company A, 3rd Battalion, 15th Infantry, passes out Beanie Babies to children in Sadr City, Iraq, May 19.
Photo by U.S. Army Spc. Ben Brody

Looking back

One year ago in Iraq

The Iraqi Governing Council has tapped one of its members to be prime minister in the interim government that will take over after the June 30 handover, a representative for the U.S.-appointed panel said May 28, 2004.

The man chosen by the Iraqi Governing Council as prime minister, Iyad Allawi, has begun talks on the formation of an interim government. The interim government will lead the country until national elections in 2005. Mr Allawi, a British-educated neurologist who left Iraq after turning against Saddam Hussein in the 1970s, was endorsed unanimously by the Governing Council.

Iraqi Security Forces / In Brief

Search for IED making cell results in 10 detainees

THBAA – Iraqi and Coalition military units conducted a joint knock and search operation in an attempt to locate an insurgent improvised explosive device-making cell here May 19, according to a multinational forces report.

2nd Brigade, 4th Division Iraqi Army soldiers joined elements of the 3-116th Armored Regiment on a local search aided by aerial support. Soldiers confiscated four rocket-propelled grenades, 36 empty rocket motor cases, and 600 rounds of 7.62 mm ammunition. Ten suspected insurgents were detained including: Abbas Khalaf Mohammed, Fawze Kadar Muhammed, Abbad Kadar Mahammed, Mohammed Abd Awadh, and Akmed Abd Awadh.

No injuries or damages were reported.

Iraqi escapes kidnappers, runs to Coalition safety

BAGHDAD – An Iraqi hostage escaped from his captors and found his way to the protection of Coalition forces May 19.

The hostage was kidnapped the previous day by terrorists who, he said, were apparently motivated by profit or gruesome intent.

"I asked the kidnappers what they were going to do with me," the hostage, who wished to remain nameless, said through a translator. "They said they have three choices: ask my family for money, shoot me or slit my throat."

The terrorists took the hostage to a house in the Abu Ghraib district and eventually left the hostage alone. After an hour without hearing a noise, the hostage successfully loosened the ropes tied to his hands and legs and looked for an escape. The entrance was locked from the outside and the windows were inaccessible, so the hostage found his way to the roof and jumped to a neighboring building. He eventually made his way to the ground where he saw Soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment, 10th U.S. Mountain Division. He approached the vehicles and told them his story.

"He was really happy to see us," said U.S. Army Sgt. Todd Stoner, a 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment Soldier

from Grafton, N.H. "Without an interpreter, he basically told me these guys kidnapped him. We gave him some food and water."

The Soldiers then searched the house where the hostage was held



U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Daryl Van Why searches a house from which an Iraqi hostage escaped.

Photo by U.S. Army

captive and discovered two RPK machineguns, one nine-millimeter pistol, six AK-47 rifles, one Russian hand grenade, an explosive detonator, four ski masks and a variety of medical supplies including heavy narcotics.

U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Daryl Van Why, a 2-14 Infantry Soldier from Unadilla, N.Y., said the escaped hostage protected himself and helped secure the Iraqi community by coming to Coalition forces.

"Had he tried running and not coming to us ... I believed he would be captured again," he said. He added that there are now fewer weapons on the street and one less hideout for insurgents.

The hostage said he was grateful for the Soldiers' assistance. "I appreciate the Americans' treatment," he said. "It was a big difference from the treatment of the terrorists." (Task Force Baghdad Public Affairs)

Iraqi Army aids police in capture of weapons and suspected AIF

NASSAR WA SALAAM – Iraqi Army and Coalition soldiers assisted the Abu Ghraib City Police by conducting a successful cordon and knock at a house northeast of here May 22, according to a multinational forces report.

Soldiers with the 1st Battalion, 4th Brigade, 1st Division Iraqi Intervention Forces and 3-8 Marines worked in direct support of Iraqi police in an attempt to serve a warrant. Of the eight suspects detained during the search, the names of five of the men appeared on the warrant.

After securing the detainees, one of the Marines noticed footprints leading from the house where the AIF were captured. The footprints led the Marine to a cache.

The cache consisted of: one rocket-propelled grenade launcher, five RPG anti-tank rockets, four RPG anti-personnel rockets and several RPG boosters, several bags of 155 mm Howitzer powder, four artillery primers, 200 plus loose 7.62 mm rounds, three AK-47 automatic rifles, one sniper rifle, and one semi-automatic rifle. In addition, a maroon Opel station wagon was confiscated for testing. The unregistered vehicle had what appeared to be five 5.62mm bullet holes in the passenger door. The detainees were taken away for further questioning.

No injuries or damages were reported.

Iraqi Army patrol locates cache

BAGHDAD – While conducting a dismounted patrol in Baghdad, Iraqi Army soldiers found and cleared a cache May 22, according to a multinational forces report.

Soldiers with the 1st Battalion, 1st Brigade, 1st Division Iraqi Intervention Forces discovered the collection of weapons and equipment. The cache contained three mortar rounds, one smoke grenade, two anti-tank grenades, one rocket, one police radio and speaker, one chemical mask, six fuses, three AK-47 automatic rifles, one 135 mm anti-aircraft round, and 196 light machine gun rounds.

No anti-Iraq forces were detained and no injuries or damages were reported.

Iraqi Security Forces / In Brief

Member of ISF leads Iraqi police to large cache

BAGHDAD – A member of the Iraqi Security Forces recently qualified for the Multi-National Security Transition Command-Iraq's small rewards program by personally locating and leading Iraqi police to a large weapons cache, according to a multinational forces report.



Part of the cache discovered with assistance from an Iraqi Security Force member last month.
MNSTC-I file photo

During March 2005, a member of the Iraqi Security Forces investigated local tips on his own time and initiative and at great personal risk. His personal investigative efforts uncovered specific information leading to the location of the cache. Sources close to the rewards program noted that

the Iraqi gentleman involved had lost a family member as a result of insurgent violence.

The cache contained the following weapons and ordnance: three rocket-propelled grenade launchers, 60 RPG7 rockets, 22 anti-tank rockets, 26 anti-personnel rockets, 15 anti-tank mines, 26 anti-personnel mines, one light machine gun, and seven bags of TNT.

No injuries or damages were reported.

Police capture IED leader

JALULA – Iraqi police captured and delivered a known insurgent operative to Coalition forces here May 23, according to a multinational forces report.

The Jalula Police Service transferred custody of Essa Mohammed Hassen Salih Azawy, a suspected financier of improvised explosive device teams in the area. The suspect is being detained by Coalition forces for further questioning.

No injuries or damages were reported.

Iraqi Security Forces continue to find and destroy IEDs

BAGHDAD – Iraqi Security Forces with support from Coalition forces continued aggressive cordon and search operations May 24 and are having increased success locating improvised explosive devices in cities and villages throughout Iraq, according to a multinational forces report.

In Baqubah and Udaim, local Iraqi police patrols discovered and cleared two IEDs. The IEDs found were described as a 130 mm artillery round with remote detonation device and a mortar round with visible wires. Elsewhere, Iraqi Army soldiers found two more IEDs and destroyed them in place. In Balad, soldiers found a 155 mm artillery round also connected to a remote control detonation device. In Hawija, an IED was discovered buried in the road.

Suspected car bomb builder caught by Iraqi police

KIRKUK – Iraqi Police Service officers acting on a tip, joined elements of the U.S. 2nd Battalion, 116th Armored Regiment in a cordon and knock operation May 24 designed to apprehend individuals suspected of building car bombs, according to a multinational forces report.

The report indicates the source stated the suspect and three of his friends were building car bombs. In the course of the operation, Iraqi Police detained Ahmed Abraham, who was wanted for his involvement in previous vehicle borne improvised explosive device attacks in Kirkuk.

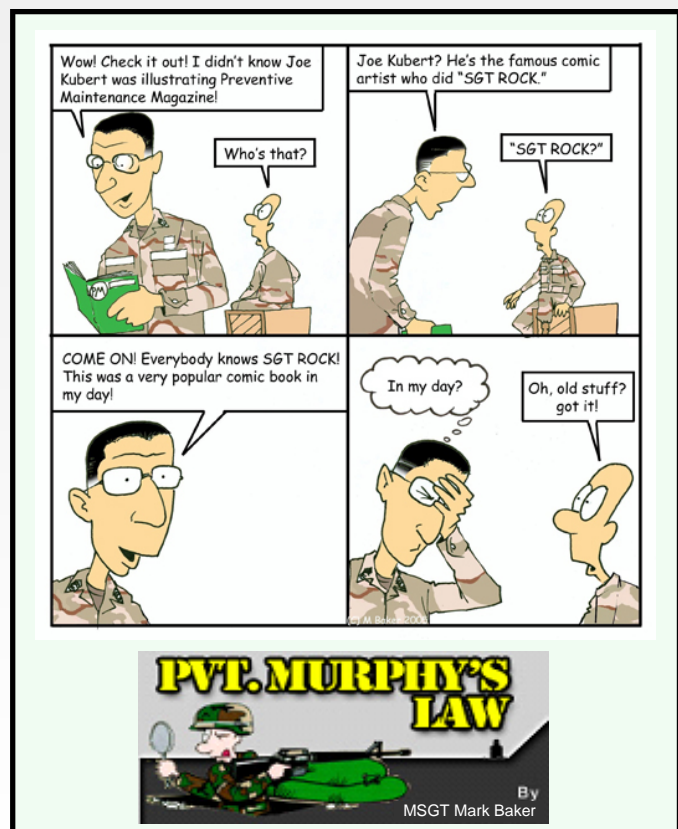
The suspect was taken to the Azadi Police Station for questioning. No injuries or damages were reported.

Anti-Iraq forces rowboat attack repelled by Baghdad police

BAGHDAD – Iraqi Police Service officers from the Jisr Diah station came under attack by small arms fire May 24, according to a multinational forces report.

Six anti-Iraq forces engaged the station with small arms fire from a rowboat in the river. Iraqi police officers returned fire forcing the AIF to abandon the boat. After swimming to shore, five individuals attempted to flee but were quickly apprehended. The sixth AIF member is believed to have drowned during the incident.

There were no casualties reported by the Iraqi Police Service.



Iraqi Security Forces / In Brief

ISF operation collars known insurgent leaders

BAGHDAD – Iraqi Security Forces continued to direct cordon and search operations throughout the city in an effort to locate known insurgent operatives here May 25, according to a multinational forces report.

Soldiers from 1st Brigade, 1st Division Iraqi Intervention Forces and 3rd Battalion, 4th Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division, supported by Coalition forces, successfully located and captured two known anti-Iraq forces believed to be responsible for conducting improvised explosive device attacks against Coalition forces. An insurgent believed to be involved in beheadings in the area was also captured in the raids.

Iraqi forces destroy caches

BAGHDAD – Iraqi Security Forces continue to take a toll on insurgent weapon supplies as two caches were destroyed May 25, according to a multinational forces report.

Soldiers from 3rd Battalion, 3rd Brigade, 1st Division Iraqi Intervention Forces discovered and cleared a cache near Mosul. The cache consisted of 24 rocket-propelled grenades, 15 parachute grenades, 13 sticks of plastic explosive, one 155 mm artillery round, and one 60 mm round.

Elsewhere near Bashiqua, Iraqi Police Service officers located a cache consisting of 200 tank rounds and two mortar rounds. In both cases, the munitions were destroyed by Iraqi explosive ordnance disposal teams.

Traffic stop leads to capture of IED materials and suspects

TAJI – Alert Iraqi soldiers stopped and inspected a suspicious vehicle at a traffic control point just outside the east gate at Taji Military Base May 25, according to a multinational forces report.

Soldiers from the 5th Battalion, 3rd Brigade, 5th Iraqi Army Division searched the vehicle and found six 60 mm mortar

rounds, one 155 mm South African rocket, and a box of tools containing wires and various other equipment believed to be used in making improvised explosive devices.

The suspects are being held pending a further investigation. No injuries or damages were reported.

Iraqis lead raid near Kharnabat

BAQUBAH – An Iraqi Army unit supported by a platoon of Coalition forces, launched an early morning raid in an area near Kharnabat May 25 in an effort to identify anti-Iraq forces, according to a multinational forces report.

Soldiers from 4th Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 5th Iraqi Army Division led the joint raid. Upon reaching the planned objective, Iraqi and Coalition forces came under considerable small arms fire. Two Iraqi soldiers were wounded. A second Coalition platoon was called in as a quick reaction force and an unmanned aerial vehicle was directed into the area for reconnaissance and over-watch assistance. Shortly thereafter, the wounded soldiers were evacuated.

One Coalition soldier received minor wounds. One civilian and one insurgent were killed during the action. Two insurgents were wounded in the exchange of gun fire. In the end, the Iraqi Army soldiers detained 12 suspected insurgents.

ISF unilaterally plan and execute complex mission against AIF

HASHASHAN – Iraqi Security Forces conducted an infiltration and raid in an area southeast of Mosul May 26 in an effort to identify and capture targeted anti-Iraq forces, according to a multinational forces report.

Iraqi Security Forces infiltrated local, anti-Iraq forces which led to critical information resulting in the capture of six suspected insurgents. The very complex operation was planned, rehearsed and executed solely by the ISF.

This successful operation demonstrated the ISF's growing capabilities in fighting a determined insurgency. All six suspects were detained for questioning.

Iraqi equipment rollup

A look at some of the equipment delivered to the Iraqi Security Forces this week

Ammunition.....	3.3 million rounds
Weapons.....	11,417
Individual body armor.....	7,867
Individual helmets.....	700
Vehicles.....	608

— Information provided by MNSTC-I J-4

Iraqi Security Forces / In Brief

Iraqi police graduate 4,516 in May from basic police training

BAGHDAD – The Iraq Police Service graduated 4,516 police officers in May from basic police training courses in Al Kut, Sulaymaniyah, Al Hillah, Jordan and Baghdad.

There were 98 police recruits from the Al Kut Regional Academy; 498 police recruits from the Sulaymaniyah Regional Academy; 517 from the Al Hillah Regional Academy; 1,500 from the Jordan International Police Training Center; and 1,903 from the Baghdad Police College. The Baghdad class included 45 female police students.

The basic police training program is designed to provide fundamental and democratic policing skills based on international human rights standards to the students in preparation for assuming police officer responsibilities. The program consists of academic study of general policing topics combined with a heavy emphasis to tactical operational policing skills. The basic police training curriculum was recently modified to include more hands-on and practical training exercises especially addressing specific survival skills needed by today's Iraqi Police Service officers.

To date, more than 32,500 police recruits have completed the eight-week training course developed for new recruits. An additional 36,000 police officers have completed the three-week Transitional Integration Program course that provides officers with prior police experience a condensed version of the longer basic police training course.

The new officers will report for duty in the coming weeks and take up assignments at their respective police stations throughout Iraq.

Iraqi police graduate 157 from advanced training courses

BAGHDAD – The Iraqi Police Service graduated 157 police officers from advanced and specialty courses at the Adnan Training Facility May 26, as part of the Iraqi government's on-going effort to train its security forces.

The courses consist of Basic Criminal Investigations with 42 graduates, Interview and Interrogations with 28 graduates, Violent Crime Investigation with 27 graduates, Critical Incident Management with 26 graduates, and First Line Supervision with 34 graduates.

The Basic Criminal Investigation course covers topics such as theft, burglary, arson, robbery, sexual offenses, and homicide investigation. Participants also receive instruction and hands-on training in fingerprinting, photography, tool marks and plaster casting techniques. This course has graduated 1,706 police officers to date.

The Interviews and Interrogations course covers advanced interview and interrogation techniques and includes instruction on the preservation and protection of human rights, and the importance of ethical behavior during interviews and interrogations. This course has graduated 369 students to date.

The Violent Crime Investigation course introduces participants to investigative techniques to be used in a variety of situations, but particularly in violent crimes against persons cases such as armed robbery, rape and murder. This course has graduated 280 students to date.

The Critical Incident Management course is designed to provide participants with the understanding of and application skills for managing critical incidents. This course has graduated 255 students to date.

First-Line Supervision focuses on major leadership areas for front line supervisors including human rights training, ethics and corruption, policing in a democracy, and interpersonal skills critical to leadership. This course has graduated 339 students to date.

Officers who participated in these courses previously completed either an eight-week basic training course for new recruits or a three-week 'transitional integration program' course designed for prior-service officers.

The police officers report back for continued duty at their respective stations immediately.



U.S. Army Sgt. Lorie Jewell, editor of the Advisor, is congratulated by Sam Donaldson, ABC News national correspondent, for receiving the Thomas Jefferson Award as the top print journalist in the Department of Defense at a ceremony in Washington D.C. May 20. Jewell also received the Paul D. Savanuck Print Journalist of the Year award as the Army's top journalist during the Maj. Gen. Keith L. Ware journalism awards ceremony 24 May.

Photo by Lori Steenstra

Did you know?



Memorial Day was originally called Decoration Day, but has always been celebrated as a day of remembrance for those who have died in our nation's service. There are numerous stories as to the actual origin, with over two dozen cities and towns laying claim as the birthplace of Memorial Day in the U.S.

Although Waterloo N.Y. was officially declared the birthplace of Memorial Day by U.S. President Lyndon Johnson in May 1966, it is still difficult to prove conclusively the origins of the day. It is more likely that it had many separate beginnings

The observance was officially proclaimed on 5 May 1868 by U.S. Gen. John Logan, national commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, in his General Order #11. The beginning of the order read, *"The 30th day of May, 1868, is designated for the purpose of strewing with flowers or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country during the late rebellion, and whose bodies now lie in almost every city, village, and hamlet church-yard in the land. In this observance no form of ceremony is prescribed, but posts and comrades will in their own way arrange such fitting services and testimonials of respect as circumstances may permit."*

The first U.S. state to officially recognize the holiday was New York in 1873. By 1890, it was recognized by all of the northern states. The South refused to acknowledge the day, honoring their dead on separate days until after World War I, when the holiday changed from respecting just those who died fighting in the Civil War to honoring Americans who died fighting in any war.

It is now celebrated in almost every U.S. state on the last Monday in May. The U.S. Congress passed the National Holiday Act of 1971 to ensure a three day weekend for Federal holidays; though several southern states continue to have an additional separate day for honoring the Confederate war dead.

Each of those original cities and towns and every planned or spontaneous gathering of people to honor the war dead in the 1860's tapped into the general human need to pay tribute to their departed loved ones and friends. Each community throughout the nation contributed honorably to the growing movement that culminated in U.S. Gen. Logan issuing his official proclamation in 1868.

Although it is interesting, it is not important which group was the very first to observe the day. What is important is that Memorial Day was established and is not about division. It is about perseverance and reconciliation. Memorial Day is about every person coming together to honor those who paid the ultimate sacrifice.



Photos provided by U.S. Army, Military District of Washington,